Launching of INSAT-2E and INSAT-3A Satellites

1017. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to advance the proposed launch of INSAT-2E and INSAT-3A satellites;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government have made any study to assess the extent of damage to our space programme due to abandonment of INSAT-2D?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. The loss of Indian National Satellite-2D (INSAT-2D) has led to a temporary shortage of transponder capacity in the INSAT System. This has affected the expansion of certain services such as Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) communications. The capacity shortage has been partially overcome by the commissioning of INSAT-2DT (previously ARABSAT-1C) which was procured and located at 55 degree E longitude. Further improvement in the position will occur when INSAT-2E is launched in the fourth quarter of 1998 and INSAT-3B in the first half of 1999.

Achievement in Space Technology

1018. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has attained newer heights in space technology after launching IRS-1D;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what has been the track record of Antrix Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Remote Sensing Satellite-1D (IRS-1D) was launched on September 29, 1997 using our own, indigenously made Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from Sriharikota Range (SHAR), near Chennai. This is the first time that an operational satellite has been launched with our own launch vehicle. India, thus attained newer heights in space technology by having an end-to-end capability in launching state-of-the-art 1-tonne class remote sensing satellites into polar sun-synchronous orbit. IRS-1D provides in-orbit continuity to IRS-1C launched earlier during December 1995 by a Russian launch vehicle. IRS-1D with its 5.8 metre resolution panchromatic camera payload provides the highest ever spatial resolution information in the civilian domain. Together with the multi-spectral 23 metre Linear Imaging Self Scanner-3 camera and the coarser 188 metre resolution with large swath of 810 kms. Wide Field Sensor (WiFS) cameras, IRS-1D provides a unique opportunity for the user community to address various applications of direct relevance in land and water resources management.

(c) Antrix Corporation Ltd., (ACL) was incorporated on 28.9.1992 as a wholly owned Government of India Private Ltd., Company under the Companies Act, 1956, to take over the commercial and trading activities of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). ACL is under the administrative control of the Department of Space and is engaged in marketing Space Products and Services developed by ISRO, both in the International and domestic markets.

Due to its sustained marketing efforts, the company was able to make an entry into and establish a market for Indian Space Products and Services in the highly competitive and technology-oriented international market.

During the last 6 years, the Company has made substantial progress in widening